



Oakham Rural District Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP
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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDING

31 ST DECEMBER, 1972

Medical Officer of Health
W. L. Palmer, MB.BS., DPH., DTM. & H.,

Public Health Inspector
C. Rhodes, MAPHI., M.Inst. PC.

OAKHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1972

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52,551
Registrar General's estimate of population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,010
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,378
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£373,203
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£3,603.90p.

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live-Births - Legitimate	116	80	196
Illegitimate	4	2	6
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	120	82	202
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E & W 1972

Live Birth Rate	Crude 18.3	Corrected 17.4	14.8
Death Rate	Crude 7.6	Corrected 10.5	12.1
Infant Mortality Rate			
per 1,000 live births	10.0		17.0

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms	6	-
Diabetes mellitus	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	2
Hypertensive disease	2	-
Ischaemic heart disease	12	4
Other forms of heart disease	1	4
Cerebrovascular disease	3	6
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	-
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	1	4
Bronchitis and emphysema	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Peptic ulcer	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	1
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	2	-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	-
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	1	1
	<u>51</u>	<u>33</u>

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health

W. L. Palmer, MB.BS., DPH., DTM. & H.

Public Health Inspector

C. Rhodes, Member of the Association of Public Health Inspectors, Member of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

The Additional Public Health Inspector Mr. B. A. Knight secured an appointment with another local authority and left the department in September, 1972. The post was filled by Mr. B. Capindale who commenced work with the authority on 18th December, 1972.

The Public Health Inspector is also the Surveyor of the Rural District, and is responsible for Council house maintenance. He is also appointed Authorised Officer under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and Inspector under the Shops Act 1950 for Rutland County Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Examination of specimens from this area was carried out during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester as follows:-

Faeces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
														<u>9</u>

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases during 1972

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases</u> <u>Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted</u> <u>to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Deaths.</u>
Measles	7	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Under</u> <u>1</u>	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>2</u> <u>3</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u>	<u>10</u> <u>14</u>	<u>15</u> <u>24</u>	<u>25</u> <u>44</u>	<u>45</u> <u>64</u>	<u>Over 65</u>
Measles	1	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SERVICES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

WATER SUPPLY

Water supplies in the District generally can be regarded as quite satisfactory in both quality and quantity. Analyses are made regularly by the staff of the Leicester City Water Department. Samples of drinking water which have been submitted for analysis as to lead content showed figures of 0.075 p.p.m. and 0.020 p.p.m. and no ill effects possibly arising from plumbo-solvency have ever been reported. The fluoride content of the water supplies in any part of the District is less than 0.2 p.p.m., and the Council has already decided that no objection be raised to any proposal for the addition of fluoride to water supplies in this area.

Water is provided to over two thousand premises in most of the twenty-seven parishes from the mains of the Leicester City Corporation. Existing supplies in the more northerly parishes have been augmented by the Corporation from its mains in adjoining Districts. The Leicester City Corporation has also taken over the responsibility of supplying water to the North Luffenham R.A.F. Station (which includes a large number of properties in the parish of Edith Weston), and also of providing a reserve supply for Cottesmore Aerodrome.

Cottesmore Aerodrome has its own private water supply to over five-hundred houses at the Married Quarters and R.A.F. administration buildings.

Eight water samples were taken during the year, seven for bacteriological examination and one for chemical analysis. Three of these samples were from the public supply. A local resident associated illness in her family with the public water supply but bacteriological and chemical samples were found to be satisfactory. Some of the children in the family concerned habitually drank a lot of cold water and these children were affected by illness. The third sample from the public supply followed a complaint that the external stop tap box of the house was full of sewage. Again the bacteriological sample proved to be satisfactory and the associated drainage problem was resolved.

Five bacteriological samples were taken from private supplies three were found to be unsatisfactory. One supply has since been fitted with a filter, one has stopped being used and a public mains supply brought into use. The owner/occupier of a third dwelling with an unsatisfactory private supply has been instructed to boil water used for drinking purposes and has been encouraged to improve the dwelling and connect to the public mains.

Continued.....

Particulars of the piped supplies in the various parishes are shown in the following table. Most of the dwellings concerned have internal piped supplies and there are no public standpipes.

December, 1972

WATER SUPPLIES

OAKHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

<u>Name of Parish</u>		<u>No. of dwellings with piped water supply</u>
ASHWELL	L	84
BARLEYTHORPE	L	37
BARROW	L	18
BRAUNSTON	L	122
BROOKE	P (and L)	3
BURLEY	L	71
COTTESMORE	L	314
EDITH WESTON	L	383
EGLETON	P (and L)	26
EMPINGHAM	P (and L)	265
EXTON	L	195
GREETHAM	L	158
GUNTHORPE	P (and L)	5
HAMBLETON	L	47
HORN	L	3
LANGHAM	L	316
LEIGHFIELD	-	-
LYNDON	L	32
MANTON	L	107
MARKET OVERTON	L	152
MARTINSTHORPE	-	-
NORMANTON	L	2
STRETTON	P (and L)	30
TEIGH	L	17
THISTLETON	L	27
TICKENCOTE	L	19
WHISSENDINE	L	276
WHITWELL	L	18
COTTESMORE AERODROME	A.M.	532
		<hr/>
		3259
		<hr/>

L. Leicester City Water Department Supply

P. Private Piped Supply

A.M. Air Ministry Supply

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Eleven sewage disposal works serve twelve of the larger villages within the Council's district. The villages of Barleythorpe and Egleton which are relatively close to Oakham Urban District Council's area are drained to the sewers serving the town. Barleythorpe sewers gravitate whilst the sewage from Egleton is pumped.

Central government asked for more land to be released for housing and the number of planning applications during the year increased significantly. Sewers in Edith Weston were extended and it was agreed to extend the sewer in Lyndon Road, Manton, both extensions to serve new properties. Although no large scale new development was started during 1972 plans were approved in Market Overton, Langham, Whissendine and Cottessmore which will mean further expenditure at disposal works.

In September 1972 a comprehensive report on disposal works maintenance was submitted to the General Purposes Committee. As a result maintenance staff was increased, two operators were sent to a neighbouring local authority for some training and it was agreed that an additional vehicle be purchased. The two operators were appointed as working supervisors on completion of their training programme and they were made responsible for the control of mobile gangs to serve the smaller works in the North and South of the district respectively. Effluent results continue to be variable however, particularly in the North of the district. Despite the use of student labour during peak holiday periods good maintenance proves difficult because of recruitment problems. The refuse collection crews are kept at full strength by taking labour from the sewage works maintenance staff. Only a productivity scheme for all staff or improved recruitment prospects will resolve this problem. Remuneration comparable with that of private industry is desirable because despite high overtime earnings suitable staff still cannot be recruited.

The Council's Consultant Engineers were actively engaged on the following projects.

Stretton Sewerage Scheme (now completed, sewage also being accepted from Clipsham village in Ketton Rural District Council's area).

Lyndon Sewerage Scheme (to be completed 1973).

Empingham Reservoir Sewerage Scheme (design stage involving the villages of Manton, Edith Weston, Hambleton, Whitwell and Empingham).

Barrow, Thistleton and Market Overton Sewerage Scheme (design stage originally involving extensions at Market Overton disposal works and provision of proper sewerage for first time at Barrow and Thistleton. Sewage may now be pumped from all three villages to Cottessmore works).

Woolfox Picnic Site on the A1 (design of toilet blocks and the pumping of sewage to Stretton for the Rutland County Council).

Burley Sewerage Scheme (design stage).

Langham Disposal Works Extensions (design stage).

Six additional sludge beds were provided at the Langham disposal works during the year and a new sludge storage bay completed at the Whissendine works. Local farmers continued to accept dried sludge for disposal on arable land. During the year 66 private septic tanks were emptied. There were 4 emptyings of a Council owned septic tank which serves six dwellings at Thistleton. A private contractor carries out this work on behalf of the Council.

Sewage effluents from a private disposal works and a prison in the area continued to be unsatisfactory. These works could possibly become obsolete. The sewage from the area involved may eventually be pumped to Oakham.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

The refuse collection service generally complies with the recommendations of 1967 Working Party Report a weekly service being given to all but isolated properties. Increased leave entitlement for the collection crews means that at Bank Holiday periods plastic sacks have to be used to provide increased storage facilities for the collection rounds affected. Sacks are also distributed in emergencies such as vehicle breakdowns as no spare vehicle is readily available. Plating and Testing requirements mean that vehicles have to be off the road on normal work days and again plastic sacks would be used if no spare vehicle is available.

Two modern rear loading compression type vehicles are used for normal domestic refuse collection. The Council have now started a special bulky refuse collection service using a hired open lorry or tractor and trailer. Each village is dealt with in turn a letter being distributed to each house asking the residents to place ready for collection bulky articles not normally collected on the weekly service. A service had always been given on demand previously.

The collection service was and still is affected by the fact that no relief heavy goods vehicle driver is available. Attempts to train a driver were unsuccessful in 1972. Neighbouring local authority drivers and private contractors had to be hired during periods when the regular drivers were sick or on leave.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

During the year one refuse tip at Manton which was on a very exposed site next to a main road was closed. The only remaining tip is kept open 24 hours a day and control has improved. Light refuse does blow from the site in periods of strong winds but this is then picked up manually as quickly as possible.

SERVICES UNDER THE FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

No samples of milk were taken during the year. There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

FOOD HYGIENE

Routine inspections were once again restricted because of pressures of other work in particular an increase in the number of applications for Building Regulation and Planning approval. The department was without the services of an additional inspector for several months. Plans submitted in respect of food premises were scrutinised for compliance with food hygiene legislation and applicants advised accordingly. Details of the type of premises within the district which should be inspected under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970 are as follows:-

	<u>1972</u>
Catering (including licensed premises)	31
General food stores	20
Schools	7
Butchers/meat products	4
Bakehouses	1
Dairies/milk distributors	1
Brewery premises	1
Nursing homes	2
Village Halls (some are rarely used)	15
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TOTAL 1972	82
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Following informal action by the department and influenced to some extent by work on the Empingham Reservoir Scheme breweries are generally up-grading licensed premises in the area. The number of catering premises gradually increases and these are the type of food businesses where hygiene is of paramount importance.

At least nineteen known food traders use vehicles which should comply with the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations. Contraventions found were dealt with informally and traders were continually reminded of the necessity to maintain hand-washing facilities correctly. Vehicles with insulated hot water containers were often found to be without hot water.

HOUSING

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

New dwellings

During 1972 forty-six new private houses were brought into rating, conversions of adjoining dwellings into larger units resulted in a loss of four dwellings, two houses were demolished on the Empingham Reservoir project, one cottage was converted into a small factory and one isolated cottage voluntarily demolished. In all, therefore, there was a net increase of dwellings in the district of 38.

Improvements

In 1972 three houses were improved with the aid of standard grants and nineteen discretionary grants were paid. These figures are less than those paid in 1971 but there is continued interest in grants. The Council have a policy that second discretionary grants will not be given and grant will not be given for space heating only. The need to obtain qualification certificates to increase the rents of some dwellings has encouraged owners to improve tenanted properties.

Slum Clearance

Two houses were represented as unfit. It is rare for any sub-standard dwelling to be demolished as properties are much sought after and invariably improved. Informal action is taken continually to encourage owners of sub-standard properties to improve them with the aid of a grant.

COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT

Work started on comprehensive improvements to nine pre-war dwellings at Empingham. The Consultant Architects also started preparing improvement schemes for twenty-seven post-war dwellings in the villages of Empingham, Market Overton and Whissendine.

No new dwellings were started but plans were well advanced for the commencement of four bungalows at Hambleton and for a flatlet block of 22 elderly persons' units and a warden's house at Cottesmore. One existing Council house was adapted for use by a disabled person and two of the new flats at Cottesmore will also be designed for use by disabled persons.

MISCELLANEOUS

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

With the exception of one site most licensed sites are for one caravan only. The exception is a site for forty residential caravans sited amongst mature trees on the outskirts of a village. Older models of caravans are being replaced by larger centrally heated models. No new sites were licensed during the year but there are indications that the Empingham Reservoir scheme will encourage many applications for sites both holiday and residential.

NOISE ABATEMENT

No formal action was taken during the year. Complaints were made direct to the Welland and Nene River Authority by Empingham residents of construction noise on the Empingham Reservoir Site. Seasonal complaints about corn drying activities were received and informal action taken.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

Private contractors call weekly and deal with all complaints of rats and mice on an annual contract basis. The same contractors treat the Council's refuse tip and sewage disposal works sites as often as may be necessary. Test baiting of sewers in May showed no positive signs of infestation. In all 60 complaints were received of rat infestations and 18 in respect of mice. The contractors also dealt with three infestations of moles and charged the costs involved direct to the occupiers of the land concerned.

Points of interest are that fewer infestations on agricultural premises were notified and repeated visits to canteen facilities on a contractors site had to be made. Catering premises in a village were also found to be infested and letters about refuse storage and hygiene generally were sent. One member of the department attended a course on the control of insect pests organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No complaints were received from staff employed in registered premises and no accidents were notified. Most of the premises are small family businesses the majority also being food premises covered also by food hygiene legislation. During the year one new large office block was completed and this increased significantly the number of persons employed in offices. The offices concerned are those of an Employers Association and as might be expected complied fully with the legal requirements of the Act. The type of premises registered and the number of employees is as follows:-

	<u>1973</u>
Two offices	30
Six retail shops	18
Five catering establishments	30
	—
Total number of employees	78
	—

FACTORIES

Twenty factories are listed in the Council's records most are small light industrial units or small garages. All were inspected during the year and no serious contraventions were found. All the outworkers listed do work for a plastics factory situated within Oakham Urban District Council's area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	No. on Reg- ister (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sec- tions 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	5	5	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' Premises)	13	13	-	-
TOTAL	20	20	-	-

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:-

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspec- tor. (4)	By H.M. Inspec- tor. (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
Want of Cleanliness. (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences. (S.7.) (b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork
(Section 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council. (3)	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Assembly of plastic novelties etc.	4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	-	-	-	-	-